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# NURSING IN MISSION STATIONS

## A HOSPITAL IN TURKEY

From a report of the Azariah Smith Memorial Hospital, Aintab, we learn that the staff consists of two foreign physicians, three native physicians, a native dispenser, and two foreign nurses, Alice C. Bewer, who has been there for some time, and Ruth Tavendar, who has recently been sent from this country. The year 1912-13 was a hard one because of the disturbed political and economic conditions resulting from the war, because of the absence of one of the native physicians for several months on military service, and because of the illness of many of the workers. There were epidemics of typhoid, pneumonia and cerebro-spinal meningitis. Four hundred and sixty-two surgical operations were performed during the year. Funds have been received for the erection of a new maternity ward and operating room. Money for the endowment of free beds is greatly needed, as the poverty of the land is great and it has almost no medical charities. At present the fees received from patients cover three-fourths of the expense of the hospital.

Miss Bewer writes:

As new workers had to be trained, it was thought wise to begin a training school for nurses, the course of instruction to extend over three years and to include class and bedside instruction in all branches of nursing and hospital work. Two candidates from Aintab were entered upon a six months' period of probation. [One was admitted as a pupil. Two others were given trial but were found unfit. The text-books used are Mrs. Robb's Nursing and Nursing Ethics.] In addition there have been given demonstrations of treatments, baths, preparations for dressings, etc., the pupils being required to write out what they saw, step by step. This has been found a helpful method, not only teaching the subject thoroughly, but also training the pupils in observation.

For the older girls there were a number of lessons, taking up anaesthetics and their administration, preparation and after-treatment of abdominal operative cases, operating room technique, and some of the surgical diseases. Dr. Hamilton also gave valuable lessons on obstetrics to some of the older girls. Miss Haiganoush Daghlilian has come twice every week throughout the whole year to give lessons in reading, writing and arithmetic to several of the workers who were deficient in these subjects. She was very faithful, and gave her services without compensation, and we thank her very heartily.

The probationers have been housed in a rented building across the street from the dispensary. The furnishings of the Nurses' Home are of the simplest, the girls bring their own beds, and spread them on the floor, native fashion. We would be very glad if some friends would supply us with furnishings, especially for the kitchen and dining-room, as in another year we shall have to set up an independent kitchen.